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NEWS

FROM THE MONTREAL YMCA

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Y CAMPAIGN REPORT

"All too few people are aware that the work of the Y.M.C.A. in underprivileged nations recently celebrated its 75th anniversary", said Maurice Strong, Vice-Chairman of the International Committee of the Y.M.C.A.'s today.

Speaking to leaders of the current Y.M.C.A. Financial Campaign, Mr. Strong who has personally visited many of these Y-centers, described the world service program as one of release, rather than one of relief."Since the inception of this program in 1889, the Y has made it a policy to go only where it was invited and to work itself out of a job as soon as possible by developing local leadership."

There are now over 12,000 Y centers in 83 countries and territories reaching an estimating 100 million persons each year. Although none of the funds currently being raised are slated for this world service program, the Montreal Y has each year increased its support of the international program of the Y.M.C.A.

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"Leadership training is probably a greater need than many of the costly development projects now being completed in newly developing nations.", Mr. Strong concluded.

Another guest at today's luncheon was Alex L. Hall whose membership dates back to the 1890's. Mr. Hall was an active member of the first Y.M.C.A. blitz campaign in 1911 which provided for the construction of 1912 of the Central, Westmount and North Branch Buildings. This campaign established a pattern which has since been adopted by campaigns all over North America. "You will never know how much value the dollars you raise today will have in the life of the community of tomorrow" Mr. Hall told the group. "I haven't been ill since 1918", Mr, Hall continued , "and the credit goes to the kind of training I had as a young lad at the Y."

Mr. Leonard Walker, who chaired today's meeting reported that the Y has now reached 58% of its minimum objective. "Every possible effort must be made to reach our target within the next week if we are to realize our goals in the year ahead."